THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN INTELLIGENCER.

Hier stehe ich, ich kan nicht anders :
Gott helfe mir ! Amen.—LUTHER.

VOL. I] DECEMBER, 1826. [No. 10.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

It has always been considered useful by the Lutheran Church to commemorate on particular days the events which are most remarkable in the history of our redemption. Not that it has been maintained, that these days are divinely appointed for this end, and claim our attention upon the authority of heaven; not that they are to be placed on the same ground with the day which we are "to remember, to keep it holy," but that it is a useful expedient, and warranted by the nature of man, to fix his view at certain periods upon certain prominent occurrences, that he may be forcibly reminded of them, and feel the influence which they can impart. He who is best acquainted with our frame, in his own appointments has given, we think, a sanction to the principle, which will secure it from contempt. The day on which the birth of the world is commemorated, and which is made under the Gospel dispensation to embrace another grand display of Omnipotent power, and that which was to be associated in the minds of the Israelites with the destruction and the salvation of the Egyptians and themselves; the Sabbath, and the Passover, proclaim to us the utility with heaven's approbation, of setting apart a portion of our time, of regular recurrence, for meditation and every other appropriate exercise, upon the memorable things of eternal providence. The wisdom of man has made the same decision in regard to political and civil matters. On the 4th of July—a day never to be forgotten, free America rests from her labours, celebrates her independence, recalls the facts by which it was attended, and reads her noble expression of her wrongs, her rights, and her determinations to be free. Who does not see that this must be useful—that it must kindle anew the spark of liberty, and prepare those forever to be governors of themselves, who have already been made so. We make these remarks to explain our views, to relieve ourselves from weak objections, and to make known precisely the ground on which—once in the

Minutes

Of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia,

Held at Frederick, Md. October 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, A. D. 1827.

On Saturday morning, services preparatory to the administration of the Lord's Supper were performed.

On Sunday morning the Rev. C. P. Krauth, delivered the pastoral discourse from 2 Cor. i. 24, after which the members of the Synod and 130 of the church at Frederick, partook of the Lord's Supper. The Rev. Mr Klein, preached in the German Reformed church. In the afternoon, the Rev. S. Hoshour delivered a discourse; and at candle-light the Rev. F. Rothrauf. The audience was numerous throughout the day, and many appeared to feel that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Monday, 9 o'clock, A. M.—The Synod was constituted by singing a hymn, and a fervent appeal to the Throne of Grace. The names of the ministers were then called.

		PLACE OF RESIDENCE.
1.	Rev. Dr. Kurtz,	Baltimore, Md
2.	" J. Herbst, sen.	Manchester, Md
3.	" J. Grob,	Taney-town, Md
4.	" D. F. Schaeffer, A. M.	Frederick, Md
5.	" F. Haas,	G. S Preston co. Va
6.	" M. Sackman,	Loudon county, Va
7.	" A. Reck,	Middle-town, Md
8.	" B. Kurtz,	Hagers-town, Md
9.	" N. Schmucker,	Woodstock, Va
10.	" M. Meyerheffer,	Harrisonburg, Va
11.	" H. Graber,	Union-town, Md
12.	" J. Kehler,	Madison, Va
13.	" C. P. Krauth,	Philadelphia, Pa
14.	" J. Schnee,	———
15.	" J. Winter,	Middleway, Va
16.	" W. Keil,	Strasburg, Va
17.	" F. Rothrauf,	Hagers-town, Md
18.	" M. Wachter,	Frederick, Md
19.	" N. B. Little,	Cumberland, Md
20.	" J. Medtart,	Martinsburg, Va
21.	" J. N. Hoffman,	Taney-town, Md
22.	" S. K. Hoshour,	New Market, Va
23.	" E. Keller,	Manchester, Md
24.	" J. G. Morris,	Baltimore, Md
25.	" M. Kubler,	———

Advisory members and Delegates from different Synods:

Rev. *David Eyster*—East Pennsylvania.

Rev. *John P. Klein*, *D. J. Hauer*, and *John Reck*—North Carolina.

Rev. *J. Herbst*, and *S. S. Schmucker*—West Pennsylvania

Rev. *J. Helfenstein*, and *S. Helfenstein*, from the German Reformed.

Were absent—Rev. J. Herbst, sen'r, J. Grob, F. Haas, N. Schmucker, W. Keil, and J. Schnee. Rev. B. Kurtz has not yet arrived from Europe.

The following Lay-men exhibited their credentials, and were admitted as members of this Synod.

F. Nusz, Frederick, Md
H. Young, Middletown
A. Wademan, Middleway, Va
G. Shryock, Hagers-town, Md.
G. Lock, Woodsborough
G. Hoffman, Cumberland
A. Lichtenwalter, Taney-town
John Rees, Baltimore
Jacob Bachman, Manchester
F. Carstens, Preston co. Va.

The President, Rev. C. P. Krauth, informed the Synod that agreeably to the constitution, the election of officers for the ensuing year should now be held, and that he having removed from the bounds of the Synod, he deemed it his duty to decline a re-election. Rev. F. Rothrauf, also declined a re-election to the office of Treasurer, as he would shortly remove to churches in Pennsylvania. Both remain however, members of this Synod. The Synod then elected,

Rev. B. KURTZ,	*President*
" *D. F. SCHAEFFER, A. M.*	*Secretary*
" *A. RECK,*	*Treasurer.*

Rev. B. Kurtz being absent, Dr. Kurtz was chosen President pro. tem.

The papers and letters addressed to the Synod, were then divided among seven committees, who were directed to examine them and report their contents in the afternoon, viz:

1st Committee—Professor Schmucker and Frederick Nusz.
2nd—Rev. Meyerheffer and A. Wademan.
3rd—Rev, Krauth and G. Shryock.
4th—Rev. Kehler and G. Lock.
5th—Rev. Rothrauf and A. Lichtenwalter.
6th—Rev. Winter and J. Rees.
7th—Rev. Wachter and G. Hoffman.

[Deficient as the following parochial reports are, it will nevertheless be seen, that the churches within the jurisdiction of this Synod are flourishing. The cause of Sunday schools has improved much, and, although all the Ministers present, acknowledge that vital religion should prevail to a much greater extent among our members, yet many have, during the past year, been convinced of sin, and induced to seek refuge in Jesus, and him crucified.]

PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

	Congregations.	*Collections.*	*Baptisms*	*Confirmed.*	*Communed.*	*Deaths*	*Sunday schools.*
Dr. Kurtz	1	Re-	ports	for	next	num-	ber. 1
J. Grob	2	Not	repor	ted.			
J. Herbst		Not	repor	ted.			
D. F. Schaeffer, A. M.	1	30 00	231	57	516	51	1
A. Reck	3	Re-	ports	for	next	num-	ber.
F. Haas	3	9 10	No	re-	port.		
M. Sackman	1		35	6	28	20	1
M. Meyerheffer	5	13 25	210	86	820	29	3
H. Graber	4	4 00	54	19	220	7	3
J. Kehler	1	7 25	44	—	83	7	1
C. P. Krauth	1	No	re-	port—	having	remov-	ed.
J. Winter	5	20 23	32	15	123	8	1
W. Keil			56	15	121	7	3
F. Rothrauf	7	48 00	99	15	470	55	3
M. Wachter	5	10 00	81	57	414	20	1
N B. Little	4	4 64	33	—	90	7	1
J. N. Hoffman	5	5 00	66	67	340	18	2
S. Hoshour	3	5 42	33	8	139	22	1
J. G. Morris	1	10 00	14	12	37	8	1
E. Keller	3	5 72	57	37	180	18	0

The minutes of the East Pennsylvania Synod, were handed over to the Rev. C. P. Krauth and J. Herbst, with instructions to report their general nature, &c. Adjourned.

Monday, 3 o'clock, P. M.—Constituted by prayer.

Rev. Messrs. Leydy and Geiger, of the German Reformed church, were received as advisory members.

The reports of the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th committees, were read.

The request of a number of persons, residing in Lincoln county, N. C. that the Rev. H. Graber be permitted to take charge of the churches, in their vicinity, was granted.

The absence of the Rev. F. Haas was excused, as the Lay-delegate from his churches, informed the Synod, that he suffered under a serious indisposition.

The different petitions for and against cancelling the union, which has hitherto existed between the churches, Benjamin, St. Mary, Concordia and Emmanuel, were read. After a full examination of the subject, and a considerable discussion, it was

Resolved, That the said churches cannot be detached from each other for the present, without producing the most deleterious effects, and that it be recommended to them to call a Pastor of our church, to take charge of them, as soon as practicable.

The reports of the 1st, 4th, 6th, and 7th committees, were read.

A document from the Taney-town church was laid on the table, and

a committee consisting of Rev. J. Herbst and C. P. Krauth appointed to report thereon.

A very interesting letter from the Rev. Christian Lewis Wiegman, Minister of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Elmsholm, in Holstein, was by particular order, read. It contains the most ardent wishes for the success of our Theological Seminary, as well as information, that he made a handsome donation to the Seminary, of books, from his own library.

Adjourned at six o'clock, prayer being offered.

This evening a prayer meeting was held, in which the Ministers generally engaged.

Tuesday, 9 o'clock, A. M.—The committee on the Taney-town affair, made report, and after due consideration and discussion, it was

Resolved, That Dr. Kurtz and Dr. Schmucker, be a committee to bring the matter to a close, in such manner as they may deem most expedient, and advantageous to the church.

The committee to whom had been referred, the minutes of the East Pennsylvania Synod, made the following report which was adopted unanimously, viz:

Resolved, That the Synod of East Pennsylvania are entirely mistaken in asserting, that this Synod interfered by their delegates with their concerns, before the General Synod of the German Reformed church; our delegates having had no instructions on the subject.*

Resolved, That the expressions of the East Pennsylvania Synod, in regard to the private opinions of our delegates, were uncalled for and unjustifiable.

Resolved, That we entirely concur in the views expressed by our delegates, that a hymn-book adopted by an individual Synod, cannot and will not be received by the Synods, constituting the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America.

Resolved, That we have neither denied, nor wished to deny the independence of the East Pennsylvania Synod.

Rev. A. Reck was appointed to report the general contents of the minutes of the North Carolina Synod.

Rev. J. Kehler and J. Rees, were appointed to report on the state of the treasury.

Resolved, That the alteration in the introduction of the constitution of the General Synod, proposed by the General Synod, viz. to strike out "no special regulations" and to insert "no entire and specific system," be assented to.

On motion, Resolved, That the thanks of this Synod be hereby ten-

* The subject came unexpectedly before the delegates.

dered to our Rev. brother Schaeffer, for his indefatigable labours in editing the Evangelical Lutheran Intelligencer, and that he be continued Editor.

That this body consider the continued publication of the Intelligencer as of the highest importance to the prosperity of our church.

That if it shall please Providence to restore our Rev. brother Kurtz to this country, as we pray he may, he be hereby requested, to prepare a series of communications, containing an account of his exertions and reception in Europe, and all such religious and miscellaneous intelligence as he may deem suitable for said publication.

That every member of this Synod, make it his duty, himself to obtain five or more subscribers to the Intelligencer, until our next session.

The Editor reported to the Synod, that if all, due from subscribers were paid, and in current money, the expenses of the publication would be met, and leave a balance of forty dollars, without allowing however any compensation to an Editor. He stated, that though half his time is required to edit the Intelligencer, he would continue Editor, with the sole view of being useful to our people, provided his brethren extended to him that aid, which the magnitude of his task, appears to merit.

The Rev. Dr. Kurtz having served as Director of the Theological Seminary, for the period fixed by Synod, the Rev. B. Kurtz was elected his successor.

Resolved, That Dr. Kurtz, be respectfully requested to continue a member of the Board of Directors, until the Rev. B. Kurtz shall return from Europe.

The Synod proceeded to the election of delegates to the General Synod.

Rev. Dr. Kurtz, D. F. Schaeffer, C. P. Krauth, F. Nusz, J. Harry, and A. Lichtenwalter were elected.

Rev. A. Reck, made report on the minutes of the North Carolina Synod, viz: That said Synod appears to be in a flourishing state, and displays much zeal for the cause of Christ—that they appended to their minutes extracts from Luther's works, which cannot but defeat the machinations of the enemies of the truth—and that real Lutheranism evidently prevails among the members of that Synod.

The committee on the state of the treasury, reported, that during the past year, (including a balance in the treasury of the former year,) $525 73 were received, and $257 50 were expended for missionary purposes.

The committee on the business of our church in the District of Columbia was re-appointed.

The Rev. D. F. Schaeffer and Rev. B. Kurtz were appointed to visit

our people in the District of Columbia as frequently, as their avocations may permit.

Resolved, That one or more missionaries be appointed by the President, to missionate when and where he may deem it expedient and requisite.

Resolved, That delegates be elected to meet the different Synods. The result of the election is, viz:

Rev. Dr. Kurtz and A. Reck to West Pennsylvania Synod.
" M Meyerheffer and S. Hoshour to North Carolina do.
" D. F. Schaeffer and C. P. Krauth to New York do.
" W. Keil to Ohio do.
" J. G. Morris to South Carolina do.
" B. Kurtz and N. B. Little to the German Reformed do.

Adjourned. Prayer.

Tuesday, 3 o'clock, P. M.—Prayer.

The affairs at Strasburg, Va. were duly considered and discussed, whereupon it was

Resolved, 1st. That the proceedings of certain persons at Strasburg, in closing the doors of the church to the Rev. Mr. Hoshour, acting as missionary, are contrary to the constitution of this Synod, with which said church has always been connected.

2nd. That as all parties of said church, have acknowledged this Synod as their judicatory, therefore it is recommended, that the suit instituted against the person who opened the door of the church for the Rev. Mr. Hoshour, be withdrawn, and that the costs of the suit be paid out of the joint treasury of the said church.

Resolved, That the time and place of the next meeting of the Synod be now appointed.

Sheperd's-town, Jefferson county, Va. and the *third Sunday in October, A. D.* 1828, were accordingly appointed.

The President then offered a fervent prayer, and after the members of the Synod united in singing a hymn, the lay delegates were permitted to retire.

Ministerial Session.

Sermons of Licentiates were examined.

Resolved, That N. B. Little, J. N. Hoffman, S. Hoshour, E. Keller and J. G. Morris be ordained this evening, after a sermon by the Rev. Professor Schmucker.

Adjourned. Prayer.

This evening, in the presence of an unusual concourse of persons, the above brethren were ordained and set apart as Pastors or Bishops in the Evangelical Lutheran church, according to the rites and usage of the church, by the officers of the Synod.

Wednesday, 7 o'clock, A. M. Prayer.

The Ministerium met. On motion,

Resolved, That the publication of a Devotional book for Catechumens, in the English language, as proposed by an article in the Intelligencer of October, will be encouraged by this Ministerium, if approved of.

After transacting the unfinished business of yesterday, the President declared it adjourned.

The best feelings prevailed among the brethren during the session,

and all expressed themselves much gratified with the evidences of the blessing of God resting upon this judicatory.

May the great Head of the Church, continue to smile upon his servants, and cause them to be daily more zealous and faithful.

This evening the Rev. E. Keller delivered a very interesting discourse.

True copy,

DAVID F. SCHAEFFER, Secretary.

MORTUARY.

Again does it become our duty to inform our readers, that inexorable death, has deprived our church of one of its active and useful Pastors.

On the 30th of September, the Rev. Dr. CHRISTIAN F. L. ENDRESS, late Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Lancaster, Pa. was called from time to eternity, after an illness of a few days, in the 52d year of his age. We are deeply afflicted by this dispensation of Providence, as our brother had in contemplation the publication of several works, which would have been a valuable acquisition to our English members especially. Of his deep researches and strength of argumentative powers, the essays on the question "Was Luther an absolute Predestinarian," give ample testimony. As we shall, if we are spared, as soon as feasible, publish a biography of several of our Ministers, who are now as we trust seeing God face to face, we would for the present, call the attention of the reader, to the following extract from the Lancaster Journal.

"Educated in all the learning of the day, Dr. Endress devoted his life to the acquisition of useful knowledge. At an early period in his life, he commenced his scientific career, and having completed his collegiate studies, his youthful piety led him to pursue the profession of Divinity. Possessing a strong and vigorous mind, a sound understanding and retentive memory, he soon became distinguished as a Scholar and Divine.

"After pursuing his profession for several years with that success which his talents, piety and gentlemanly deportment could not fail to insure, he was called to the pastoral care of the large and respectable congregation of Lutherans in the city of Lancaster.—Here opened a field wherein his learning, piety and abilities were all displayed in a manner highly creditable to himself and beneficial to those connected with him.

"Although he succeeded one of the most learned, pious and popular divines who have ornamented our country, he did not suffer the glory of his church to be tarnished, or her dignity to be impaired. Pursuing the steps of his predecessor, he at once acquired the confidence, respect and esteem of his congregation.

"For twelve years he performed the arduous labour of Pastor of this congregation, during which time his judgment, having been matured by age, and his mind improved by study, he attained the highest honours in his profession—during this time he was elected President of the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, and was honoured with the degree of "Doctor of Sacred Theology."

"In this situation he enjoyed the full confidence of his congregation, weekly dispensing to them the consolations of the Gospel, and receiving in return their kind and fraternal affections, until fell disease attacked his mortal frame, and Death summoned him to the courts above.

"His disease was short, but painful. He bore it with Christian fortitude, and when the lamp of life was about to be extinguished, his mind was more devoted to his family and congregation than to any other earthly objects. Disregarding his own sufferings, he thought only of those who would survive him.

He is no more! By his death religion has lost a firm supporter, and science one of her brightest ornaments.